Decline in female foeticide

†*232. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of female foeticide have declined after the formulation of strict rules and law and if so, the figures of last three years in this regard, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) which are the States where majority of incidents of female foeticide are happening and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of States where the percentage of female is lower than that of male due to female foeticide, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) is one of the most important indicator used for study of population characteristics. Declining trend in sex ratio has been a matter of concern for all in the country. Sex ratio in India has declined over the century from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991. The sex ratio has since gone up to 933 in 2001.

In contrast, the child sex ratio for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census. The encouraging trend in the sex ratio during 1991—2001 was marred by the decline of 18 points in the sex ratio of children aged 6 years or below.

The Census 2001 figures further reveal that the child sex ratio is comparatively lower in the affluent regions, *i.e.*, Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (868), Gujarat (883) and Himachal Pradesh (896). State/UT-wise sex ratio and child sex ratio as per 1991 and 2001 Census is at Statement-I (*See* below).

The number of foeticides (male + female) between the years 2004-2006 is at Statement-II (*See* below). Cases of total foeticide have increased in 2006 as compared to the years 2005 and 2004.

The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) have furnished the following information:

The three States/UTs with the maximum number of cases registered under foeticide (male + female) during each of the years 2004—2006

2004	2005	2006
Rajasthan (17)	Chhattisgarh (21)	Rajasthan (25)
Haryana and	M.P. and Punjab	Punjab (22)
Maharashtra (15 each)	(12 each)	
M.P. (19)	Rajasthan (10)	M.P. (14)

Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio are son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, higher maternal mortality and male bias in enumeration of population. Easy availability of sex determination test and abortion services may also be providing to be catalyst in the process, which may be further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

Sex determination techniques have been in use in India since 1975 primarily for the determination of genetic abnormalities. However, these techniques were widely misused to determine the sex of the foetus and subsequent abortions if the foetus was found to be female.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In order to check female foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has since been amended to make it more comprehensive. The amended Act and Rules came into force with effect from 14.2.2003 and the PNDT Act has been renamed as "Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994" to make it more comprehensive.

The technique of pre-conception sex selection has been brought within the ambit of this Act so as to pre-empt the use of such technologies, which significantly contribute to the declining sex ratio. Use of ultrasound machines has also been brought within the purview of this Act more explicitly so as to curb their misuse for detection and disclosure of sex of the foetus lest it should lead to female foeticide. The Central Supervisory Board (CSB) constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister for Health and Family Welfare has been further empowered for monitoring the implementation of the Act. State level Supervisory Boards in the line of the CSB constituted at the Centre has been introduced for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Act in States/UTs. The State/UT level Appropriate Authority have been made a multi member body for better implementation and monitoring of the Act in the States. More stringent punishments are prescribed under the Act so as to serve as a deterrent for minimizing violations of the Act. Appropriate Authorities are empowered with the powers of Civil Court for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violators of law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witnesses. It has been made mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of foetus and also in respect of tests and procedures that may lead to pre-conception selection of sex. The sale of ultrasound machines has been regulated through laying down the condition of sale only to the bodies registered under the Act.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken a number of steps for the implementation of the Act, IEC activities for generating awareness among the public about the debilitating impact of skewed sex ratio on the society, sensitization/training of the implementing agencies, including the lower judiciary and the Public Prosecutors.

It is hoped that the sincere effort with which the PC and PNDT Act is being implemented, would make lead to an improvement in the child sex ratio. However, a confirmation of this would be known only after the 2011 Census.

Statement I

State/UT-wise sex ratio and child sex ratio during 1991 *and* 2001

India and State/Union territory*/District	Sex ratio		Child sex ratio	
	1991	2001	1991	2001
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA	927	933	945	927
Jammu & Kashmir	896	892	NA	941
Himachal Pradesh	976	968	951	896
Punjab	882	876	875	798
Chandigarh*	790	777	899	845

1	2	3	4	5
Uttaranchal	936	962	948	908
Haryana	865	861	879	819
Delhi*	827	821	915	868
Rajasthan	910	921	916	909
Uttar Pradesh	876	898	927	916
Bihar	907	919	953	942
Sikkim	878	875	965	963
Arunachal Pradesh	859	893	982	964
Nagaland	886	900	993	964
Manipur	958	978	974	957
Mizoram	921	935	969	964
Tripura	945	948	967	966
Meghalaya	955	972	986	973
Assam	923	935	975	965
West Bengal	917	934	967	960
Jharkhand	922	941	979	965
Orissa	971	972	967	953
Chhattisgarh	985	989	974	975
Madhya Pradesh	912	919	941	932
Gujarat	934	920	928	883
Daman & Diu*	969	710	958	926
Dadra & Nagar Haveli*	952	812	1,013	979
Maharashtra	934	922	946	913
Andhra Pradesh	972	978	975	961
Karnataka	960	965	960	946
Goa	967	961	964	938
Lakshadweep*	943	948	941	959
Kerala	1,036	1,058	958	960
Tamil Nadu	974	987	948	942
Pondicherry*	979	1,001	963	967
Andaman & Nicobar Islands*	818	846	973	957

SOURCE. Census 1991 and 2001, O/O Registrar General of India *Union Territory

Statement-II

Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted(CC), Cases Convicted(CC) Persons Arrested(PA), Persons Charge Sheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted under Foeticide (PCF) during 2004—2006

Sl. No.	State/UT	2004						2005						2006					
		CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	5	0	4	5	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4.	Bihar	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	3	1	6	6	1	21	8	1	8	8	0	5	1	0	1	1	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	6	2	0	5	5	0
8.	Haryana	15	1	0	2	2	0	8	5	0	9	9	0	9	2	0	9	9	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	5	4	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	15	13	0
12.	Karnataka	4	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9	5	2	10	10	2	12	3	2	7	7	3	14	4	2	6	6	1
15.	Maharashtra	15	4	0	9	5	0	4	3	1	3	9	1	10	5	0	11	11	0
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	8	4	0	6	6	0	12	3	0	14	7	0	22	2	0	7	2	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
23.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2	2	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	5	5	2
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL STATE	81	25	3	43	38	3	83	26	5	49	45	5	118	30	5	77	73	5
29.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	D & N Haveli	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi UT	4	2	0	4	4	0	3	3	0	6	6	0	7	5	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL UT:	5	3	0	4	4	0	3	3	0	6	6	0	7	5	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL ALL INDIA:	86	28	3	47	42	3	86	29	5	55	51	5	125	35	5	77	73	5

SOURCE: Crime in India

NOTE: Information on disposal of police and courts includes the information on pending cases from previous years also.